MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 APRIL 1983

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held separate meetings with the amir of Kuwait, the Kuwaiti prime minister, and the Moroccan envoy visiting Kuwait in connection with the forthcoming Arab summit conference, according to reports by KUNA and Kuwait radio. While asserting that 'Arafat's talks with Jordanian King Husayn produced "practical results," sources in the PLO leader's entourage confirmed the existence of PLO-Jordanian differences centering on President Ronald Reagan's Middle East peace plan, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported. With the support of the PLO Executive Committee, 'Arafat told Husayn that the Fes summit resolutions are "the minimum" the PLO is prepared to accept, the sources added. In a statement in Kuwait reported by KUNA, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh urged the forthcoming summit conference to adopt a united Arab stand toward the Reagan plan rather than to try to find points of identity or congruence with U.S. policy. The aim of the summit must be the advancement of the Fes resolutions and not their withdrawal, he stressed.

Commenting on the 'Arafat-Husayn talks, the Amman daily AD-DUSTUR emphasized the need to avoid delay and said Jordan is "impatient" to resume talks with the PLO, Amman radio reported. A Riyad radio commentary said Arab leaders who realize the importance of the time factor will "exploit every positive sign" to benefit their cause. Riyadh expressed optimism that the PLO leader's current diplomacy will give impetus toward a united Arab stand. 'Arafat and Husayn have agreed to delay their response to the Reagan plan pending the outcome of further Palestinian and Arab meetings, the radio said.

Inter-Arab Affairs

The emergency Arab summit will be postponed from mid-April to the end of the month in order to assess the results of visits by Moroccan envoys to Arab countries, KUNA revealed citing Arab diplomatic sources in Rabat. According to a related report in the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN, a number of countries requested the summit's postponement in order to hold further contacts among themselves. Meanwhile, a Moroccan envoy arrived in Khartoum with a message on the summit for Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, SUNA reported. Later, Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta arrived in Damascus to deliver a message from King Hussan II to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the current Arab situation, Damascus radio announced.

Lebanon

Security Situation -- A 5 April attack on an IDF patrol near 'Ayn Zhalta in the eastern Ash-Shuf area was mounted by a "terrorist" squad operating from Syrian-controlled territory, Jerusalem radio reported. Two Israelis were wounded in the incident. In a separate development Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios reported renewed Druze-Christian clashes near 'Alayh.

Cheysson Visit -- French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson arrived in Beirut to meet with senior Lebanese officials and preside over a meeting of French ambassadors in the Middle East, Beirut radio reported.

Saudi Comment on Talks -- The Saudi paper AL-JAZIRAH said the latest Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. talks were the only round since the opening round in which a feeling of optimism prevailed regarding the possibility of reaching an agreement soon, according to Riyadh

radio. The latest negotiations were "positive and serious" because of the U.S. decision to suspend the delivery of F-16 aircraft to Israel pending the latter's withdrawal from Lebanon, the paper affirmed.

Israel

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the Cabinet that President Reagan's announcement that the United States will not supply F-16's to Israel before the Israeli forces withdraw from Lebanon is intended "to pressure" Israel to moderate its position in the Lebanese negotiations and "to signal" King Husayn to join the peace process, Jerusalem radio reported. Shamir said Israel "will not be pressed" when its security "is at stake" and added that Reagan's announcement and the link he made between the arms supply and U.S. policy in the region "has harmed" Israel.

Syria

The USSR has informed certain Arab circles that it is willing "to provide any assistance, including military intervention," in support of Syria or any other Arab state to confront any aggression committed against these states if the Arabs request it, the London magazine AL-MAJALLAH reported citing "highly placed" Arab sources.

Egypt

Ghali's Visit to France -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali met with French President Francois Mitterrand and handed him a message from President Husni Mubarak dealing with the Middle East situation, MENA reported. Ghali expressed the belief that Egypt and France agree on the importance of activating the peace process to achieve a solution to the Middle East crisis, MENA added.

Mubarak's Asian Tour -- President Mubarak met with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to discuss the Middle East situation as well as bilateral economic and technological cooperation, according to a statement by Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali reported by Cairo radio.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

A Kuwaiti envoy arrived in Moscow with a message from Amir Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah to Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov on the Iran-Iraq war, KUNA reported. The envoy said Kuwait is "certain" that the USSR will cooperate with other permanent members of the UN Security Council to stop the war, KUNA added.

Iraq

Iraqi Muslim "mujahidin" opposed to President Saddam Husayn's regime claimed responsibility for a recent bomb explosion at the Ba'th Party's Al-Hurriyah Publication Center, IRNA reported citing a mujahidin spokesman in Tehran.

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ARMY CALLED IN TO RESTORE ORDER IN ASSAM AREAS

BK061606 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] The Army was summoned today to maintain law and order to control the situation in parts of Sidli and Kakrajhar police station areas in Goalpara District following outbreaks of group violence and arson in the past 2 days. Official reports in Guahati say that six persons were killed in the incidents on Monday night and early yesterday. The mob also set fire to about 1,000 houses in a cluster of 12 villages rendering some 4,000 people homeless. One person was killed when the police opened fire to disperse a violent mob indulged in group attacks and arson. The state education minister, Mr Mukot Sarma, and the irrigation minister, Mr Z. Islam, today visited the affected villages in the area and met the victims. They also supervised the relief operation.

MINISTER CITES LOSSES DUE TO ASSAM AGITATION

BK061449 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed today that the agitation in Assam has affected the economic and financial well-being of the state. In a written reply, the industries minister, Mr Narain Dutt Tiwari, said that the estimated loss of petroleum and fertilizers would come to 12.72 billion rupees. Due to the disruption of the rail movement, the railways suffered a loss of 320 million. Several projects have been delayed resulting in considerable cost escalation. Mr Tiwari however said that the state government is making every effort with the full support of the center to restore peace and normalcy in Assam.

SIKH LEADER REJECTS RENEWED OFFER FOR TALKS

BK061325 Hong Kong AFP in English 1246 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 6 (AFP) -- The top Punjab Sikh leader today rejected the federal government's renewed offer to resume talks with them as tension in the border state still simmered following Monday's violence.

"We cannot hold your hand when you are holding the rifle in your other hand," Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, chairman of the Sikh's Akali Dal Party, said in a press statement at Amritsar in Punjab today, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Federal Interior Minister Prakash Chandra Sethi said in the parliament lower house yesterday that the government was always ready to resume talks with the Sikhs on their political and religious demands.

GANDHI COMMENTS ON 'GENUINE' SIKH GRIEVANCES

BK061618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] The prime minister has expressed her sympathy with the families of those killed in the incidents of violence in Punjab during the rasta roko [road blockade] agitation by Akalis on Monday.

Mrs Gandhi told the president of the Akali Dal, Master Tara Singh group, Jathedar Rachhpal Singh, that she is always willing to consider the genuine grievances of the Sikhs. She said while a decision has already been taken on the religious demands of the Sikhs, efforts are being made to find a satisfactory solution to their other demands. Jathedar Rachhpal Singh called on the prime minister in New Delhi today.

AKALI LEADERS URGED TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS

BK070534 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Text] The Congress-J working committee has appealed to the Akali Dal leaders to return to the negotiating table. A resolution adopted at its meeting in New Delhi yesterday said that after their religious demands have been met and the commission which has already been appointed to go into the center-state relations, there should be a time for negotiation.

In Amritsar, the district peace and communal harmony committee has requested people to desist from violence. It condemned the explosions during the last 2 days. The committee, which was in Amritsar yesterday, suggested the introduction of round the clock vigil by (?citizens).

Meanwhile, an official spokesman said in Amritsar that the situation in the city is fully under control.

SETHI DENIES INTERFERENCE IN POLICE AFFAIRS

BK060949 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] The home minister, Mr. P.C. Sethi, today made it clear that the government has no intention of disallowing police associations. Answering the question in the Lok Sabha, Mr Sethi said there is no directive to state governments for disbanding such associations. He admitted that police associations create some problems but added that many of them were solved through negotiations.

On a question about inadequacy of police leading to increase in crimes, Mr Sethi said it is the efficiency of police force that matters and not its number. He said various steps have been taken to improve its efficiency. The home minister strongly denied a member's allegation that there is interference from the high-ups in the day-to-day functioning of police.

VENKATARAMAN ASSURES PARLIAMENT ON DEFENSE

BK051721 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] The defense minister, Mr R. Venkataraman, assured the lower house of parliament today that the country's defense preparedness will be kept at peak level of efficiency and no quarter will be given for complacency at any stage. He was replying to the 3-day debate on the demands for grants of his ministry today.

Reaffirming India's commitment to nonalignment and peace, he said that India's defense preparation will not impinge on the territorial integrity of its neighbors. We have no extraterritorial ambitions, he added.

Though India does not face any threat to its security directly from any major power, the United States' decision to supply strategic and sophisticated weapons to Pakistan has to be perceived as a threat to our security.

Reiterating India's commitment to the settlement of all issues through peaceful negotiations, the defense minister said that India will continue the efforts to normalize relations with Pakistan and China. India fully reciprocates the Chinese desire to normalize relations, taking into account at the same time the discordant notes the Chinese leaders often found in the context of the border dispute.

Mr Venkataraman said that the Indian Ocean has become a scene of rivalry and the Indian Navy has to be strengthened to defend its offshore installations, its economic zone, and its far-flung islands. India reserves its options open on the question of having nuclear submarines for its Navy. He said the Mirage 2000 aircraft being acquired by India is the answer to Pakistan's F-16. Mirage 2000 will give confidence to the Indian Air Force. He asserted that his ministry is going ahead with the plan to modernize the weapons system to maintain superiority in the battlefield. Every effort is being made to equip the Navy and the Air Force with the most modern weapons system, he added.

PRC DELEGATION LEAVES NEW DELHI FOR RAJASTHAN

BK041435 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 4 Apr 83

[Text] The high-level Chinese delegation now on a visit to India today left New Delhi for the western state of Rajasthan. The 12-member delegation led by Mr Chu Tunan, vice president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries, will also visit Gujarat, Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta.

In his address at a reception last night, the leader of the delegation, Mr Chu Tunan, said that they have come to India especially to continue the process of consolidation of India-China friendship. He recalled the spirit of the days of Jawaharlal Nehru and Zhou Enlai and said this should be a focal point for our friendship.

Mr Chu Tunan appreciated India's efforts and determination for global peace. He was deeply impressed by the warm feelings Mr Gandhi had shown toward China.

NEW SOVIET ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS 5 APRIL

BK051625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] The new Soviet ambassador, Mr Vasiliy N. Rykov, presented his credentials to the president, Giani Zail Singh, in New Delhi today. Welcoming him, the president said the close friendship between India and the Soviet Union is based on equality, mutual respect, and good will.

SPOKESMAN VOICES HOPE FOR UPCOMING AFGHAN TALKS

BK051644 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] The second round of indirect talks on Afghanistan through the intermediary of Diego Cordovez, personal representative of the UN secretary general, will begin in Geneva on Monday.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will lead the Pakistani delegation to the talks. He is scheduled to leave for Geneva on Saturday.

A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today expressed the hope that further progress would be made in the talks toward evolving a satisfactory basis for a comprehensive solution to the Afghanistan problem. Pakistan will continue to cooperate in this connection because it considers this to be a positive process. He reiterated that Pakistan supports a political solution to the Afghanistan problem based on the four principles enunciated by the Islamic Conference Organization, the UN resolution, and the declaration of the Nonaligned Movement.

SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON THAI-KAMPUCHEAN SITUATION

BK060516 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Pakistan has expressed deep concern over the deteriorating situation along the Thai-Kampuchean border and the plight of the Kampuchean people.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad that the latest Vietnamese attack on Kampuchea has further increased tension in South Asia.[as heard] The spokesman emphasized the commitment to the principles, confirmed by the United Nations and the members of the Nonaligned Movement, for finding a political solution to the Kampuchean issue. The spokesman said it is imperative that Vietnamese troops are withdrawn from Kampuchea for a peaceful settlement of the Kampuchean issue. Kampuchea's independence and territorial integrity should also be respected and the Kampuchean people should be given the right to decide their future without any outside interference.

BRIEFS

WHEAT EXPORTS TO IRAN -- Minister of State for Food and Agriculture Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali met with officials of the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Supplies Corporation [PASCO] in Lahore on 19 March. He was told that PASCO is exporting 130,000 tons of wheat to Iran. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Mar 83 BK]

COTTON PRODUCTION -- The country produced 4.83 million bales of cotton during 1982-83, which is a record. This is the first time cotton production has exceeded its target. This was stated at a special meeting of the central cotton committee in Karachi on 19 March. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Mar 83 BK]

AFGHANISTAN

NEW MINISTERIAL, OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

LD061705 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] At the proposal of the DRA Council of Ministers, and approved by the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, the following appointments are announced:

'Abdol Samad Qayyumi is DRA minister of education and training.

Wali Mohammad Abfiani is head of local organs of state administration; this appointment is a post over rank.

Faqir Mohammad Yaqubi is minister adviser in the Council of Ministers.

Sayyed Mortaza, first deputy head of the DRA State Planning Committee; Mohammad Kabir, head of Inspection and Supervision Department of the Council of Ministers; and Mohammad Haydar Masud, head of the DRA State Television and Radio and Cinematography Committee, have been promoted a rank.

SRI LANKA

SECURITY FORCES UNCOVER 'FOURTH' TERRORIST GROUP

BK050801 Colombo SUN in English 28 Mar 83 p 1

[By Ranil Weerasinghe]

[Excerpt] Security forces who arrested four youths in Muttur and Seruvila recently have bared the emergence of a fourth terrorist force in the violent politics of north Sri Lanka. They have uncovered evidence to confirm that members of this group, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), have been responsible for the ambush of an Army truck at Umayalpuram.

In this incident on March 4, terrorists dressed in Army type fatigues shot and wounded five soldiers. Security forces later recovered from the scene pamphlets that claimed the "re-emergence" of "Real Tigers" and the anti-social clean up drive of the terrorists.

Security forces who questioned the four arrested youths have found them to be well educated. They have been active members of the EROS whose operations have been based both in London and Madras.

The EROS is the fourth terrorist group to enter into armed conflict with security forces following the activity of the Tigers, the PLOTE (People's Liberation Organisation for Tamil Eelam) led by Uma Maheswaran and TELO (Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation) led by Sri Sabaratnam and Rasapulle.

Earlier EROS signalled a new era of "impersonal" terrorism when they mailed several parcel bombs to politicians and other key figures. These bombs however detonated prematurely in the mobile post office of the Jaffna night mail, killing two postal officials.

BUSHEHR SEA POLLUTION INVESTIGATORY UNIT FORMED

GF061800 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] A sea pollution environmental investigatory headquarters has been set up in Bushehr. According to a Central News Unit report, following the rocket attack on one of the oil wells in the Nowruz oil field in the Persian Gulf by the Ba'thist mercenaries of Saddam and the resultant flow of oil into the sea, a delegation of experts from the Organization for the Protection of Environment, deputized by the Prime Ministry, arrived in Bushehr yesterday.

Members of this delegation yesterday held a meeting attended by the deputy of the Political Department of the office of the governor-general, representatives of the Bushehr and Khark Oil Company, ports and shipping, fisheries, and representatives from the naval base at Bushehr. According to this report, it was decided after discussions and exchange of views that a headquarters consisting of the naval base, Port Department, oil company, and Bushehr fisheries officials should be set up and it should start its investigations under the supervision of the office of the governor-general.

The meeting also decided that the headquarters of the investigatory organization should coordinate its activities with authorities of Hormozgan and Seistan va Baluchistan Provinces.

MUSAVI-ARDABILI FRIDAY SERMON ON WAR, OIL SLICK

LD011533 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Excerpts] In his second Friday prayers sermon read in Tehran today Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said:

[Begin recording] Satan has rallied around him his party and archdemons. They are all engaged in devilry in the neighboring countries in the region with their comings and goings, talks, lowering the oil price, terminating the Palestine issue, raising the issue of southern Lebanon and other issues, and finally drawing up things for the Islamic Republic. Daily we see new devilries perpetrated by these people. One day they say: Iran lives for the war. It is impossible for Iran to make peace. Do you know why? If Iran were to make peace, its regime would fall on the very day it makes peace! These people believe such things.

Well, if that is so, if our life depends on war, then why don't you let us finish the war? We want to finish the war. Why don't you let us? There is nothing to it. Step aside and don't help Saddam. The war will end in 2 days. And since you believe that the day after the war ends, the Iranian regime will fall; then on the 3d day there will no longer be an Islamic Republic. So you will remain together with Gulf oil and the Gulf countries. Then why don't you allow this to happen? You are telling the truth, but you cannot do that. You don't have the manliness to do that. [sentence as heard]

Well, we have conditions. We have conditions for peace. We have said that you struck at us. Well, where in the world can such things take place: for them to strike, to kill, to destroy, to demolish, and then to preen their moustaches with pride and arrogance and then to be on their way home? But if someone were to ask: where to? They would say: Look, you are a warmonger. I wish to go home, you say. Where?

I wish to goodness he would go, but he does not do so. He has struck at our oil, at two or three of our oil wells. Well, we cannot control these by loading them on trailers and dragging them here and there. God has created these within firing range of that unmanly fellow. So he struck, and now oil is spilling out, and he admonished us, saying: Why don't you put a stop to it? Do you now see how it is polluting Kuwait's waters? Well, old fellow, you struck at us. This is no longer war but an act of piracy on the high seas. You know neither friend nor foe. When you struck, did you not think that the water would be polluted, that the environment would be polluted? And now you are fighting us.

He imagines that when a few barrels of our oil seep away, he is harming us. He doesn't have the sense to see that he is dealing blows at those who are propping him up, who are helping him, who are his friends, who are on his side. Well, we still do say nothing. We say: We are willing to take steps within our capabilities to cleanse the polluted environment. [end recording]

COMMENTARY URGES SADDAM'S PROSECUTION FOR OIL SPILL

GF040540 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Who or what is threatening the five Gulf countries? The oil slick or the one who is responsible for it? If the Gulf countries could bravely answer this question, then the danger threatening their homelands would end and they would be able to live in security and stability in this region, to which God has granted so many blessings.

For 2 years now, these countries have been talking about the war between the Islamic Republic and the ruling Baghdad regime and fearing its spread to the other countries of the region. However, these countries never asked who launched this war and brought danger and instability to the region. If they had honestly and truly admitted who was the real criminal, then the threat of war would not have extended from the confrontation field on the borders of the Islamic Republic and Iraq.

Despite the statements of officials of the Islamic Republic, which expressed the desire of the revolution government to live peacefully and fraternally with all the Gulf countries, a number of regimes did not listen to these expressions of fraternity, love, and peace and maintained their stand of supporting the Saddamist regime financially, informatively, and militarily until the inevitable happened. This aggressor regime has threatened the very life of the Gulf region in its use of foreign experts to bomb one of the oil wells in the Nowruz region, whose spouting oil is endangering all the countries on the western coast of the Persian Gulf.

The world today is facing a crime of international proportion and cannot remain silent about a crime perpetrated intentionally and which is still threatening the lives of over 3 million people who live on the western coast of the Gulf. It is demanded of the Gulf countries and the World Court in light of available information to prosecute the criminal in the World Court and to mete out due punishment for his crime so that he is made an example of what happens to anyone who toys with the destiny of people.

IRAQI MUJAHIDIN BOMB BA'TH PUBLICATION CENTER

LD061009 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 6 IRNA -- The publication centre of Iraqi Ba'th Party was bombed by Iraqi Muslim mujahidin Tuesday morning.

A large number of books and other publications of Ba'th Party printed in this centre were exploded by about 30 kilos of T.N.T. The explosion was up to such extent that the Interior Ministry of Iraq had to confess that the security forces could not control the situation.

The spokesman for the Iraqi Muslim mujahidin said that the site of the explosion was exactly the printing office of the Al-Hirriyah Publication Centre while Iraqi officials claimed the explosion occurred near that centre.

The explosion was the second in ten days. Last week, Iraqi Muslim mujahidin destroyed Iraqi airline office in Baghdad.

Informed sources said that publication centre was located in a military zone and was strongly protected by Saddam's agents. The Ba'thist regime of Iraq in a communique, in order to divert the public opinion from the ever increasing struggles of Muslim Iraqis, attributed the explosion to the Islamic Republic of Iran. But the oppressed Iraqi Muslims were well aware that the explosions were made by their combatant youths, who through their brave actions proved that they are strong enough against the corrupted and dictator regime of Iraq.

Explosions in the offices of Iraqi airlines, IRAQI NEWS AGENCY and Iraqi Interior Ministry near the Saddam's palace are the actions which indicate that the will of oppressed nations is stronger than the ruling mercenary group.

IRAQI GROUP CALLS FOR ANTI-SADDAM UPRISING

LD070930 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA -- The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq in a statement Wednesday stressed that Saddam Husayn's rule of terror was not representing the Iraqi people but her oppressors which had brought him to power.

The statement, issued on the occasion of the third anniversary of the martyrdom Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Sadr, further added that the ayatollah's martyrdom was a catastrophe to all Iraqi nation including the Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Shi'ites or Sunnis.

It called on the Iraqis to uprise against diabolic regime in their country since it aimed at bringing the people under the yoke of imperialism.

Addressing the Iraqi Army, the statement noted that the Iraqi imposed war on the Islamic Republic, aimed at materialising interests of Saddam's Western masters, not only would have no benefit for the Iraqi people but would destroy Iraqi forces and economy as well. It urged the Army to support the people and revolt against criminal Saddam also inviting Iraqi tribesmen and Muslim Kurds to unitedly stand against the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,271

LD061802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,271 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. On the western fronts of the country yesterday, the powerful combatants of Islam continued defending their positions and opened artillery and heavy weapons fire on enemy positions and units. In the Piranshah border region, they fired on the Iraqi forces, stopped their artillery activities, and inflicted heavy casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries.

On the Marivan front, positions of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries in the (Hargineh) region came under the artillery fire of the combatants of Islam. A number of the heavy and light weapons emplacements of the Iraqi forces were destroyed and a number of their servicemen were killed. On the same front, an enemy patrol group intended to attack and advance. However, it was confronted by the brave resistance of our forces and was forced to flee after a clash, which resulted in losses and casualties.

On the southern fronts yesterday, exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued sporadically between the combatants of Islam and the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries. Our combatants continued to defend their positions and to control enemy movements, preventing the Saddamist mercenaries' activities. When a group of Iraqi forces intended to penetrate the defense line of our forces in the (Chazzabeh) area, the heavy artillery fire of the combatants of Islam stopped the Saddamist mercenaries' movements and finally foiled the operations of the enemy patrols.

On the Abadan front, the heroes of the Gendarmerie, returning fire on the positions and trenches of the Saddamist mercenaries on the other side of the Arvand Rud, stopped their fire and controlled the movements of the Iraqi forces on the Al-Fau-Basra axis, destroyed several of their slit trenches and foxholes, and killed or wounded a number of their servicemen.

The City of Abadan yesterday came under the artillery fire of the Saddamist criminals, three houses and palm groves were destroyed.

In the past 24 hours, all air aggressions by the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries against the airspace of our beloved Islamic homeland were foiled by the heroes of the Air Force, who are ready to sacrifice their lives, and by the combatants of the air defense units, forcing the intruding Iraqi aircraft to flee.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

NVOI APPEALS FOR RELEASE OF TUDEH PARTY LEADERS

Warns of 'Danger' to Revolution

TA281114 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Unattributed commentary: "A Danger That Is Threatening Revolution"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: The imam of the nation's Nowruz message is an exemplary warning to all those who are struggling today under the most difficult conditions against the sworn foes of our nation and for safeguarding the independence and freedom of our emancipated homeland and promoting the goals of the Iranian Revolution. At the same time, this message confirms the accuracy of the warnings given a long time ago by the true revolutionary forces and the sincere followers of the imam's line to the people and Islamic Government officials.

One can deduce from the tenor of the imam of the nation's message that at present a serious danger is facing the Iranian people's glorious revolution and the gains of this revolution.

Yes, the revolution's foes have employed all their ploys and ruses to bring the Islamic Republican of Iran to its knees. They are striving to make the people disgusted with and pessimistic about the revolution. International reaction, headed by U.S. imperialism, is assisting the Iranian counterrevolution to achieve this aim. In fact, it is for the purpose of carrying out imperialsim's evil aims that today the Iranian counterrevolution is operating in such a way. Amid such conditions, some of Islamic government officials, despite the imam of the nation's guidelines and reminders, have in practice given the U.S. imperialists a free hand.

The detention and arrest of the Iranian Tudeh Party leaders and in general the escalation of pressure on this revolutionary party and on all true revolutionary forces can be described as another plot by U.S. imperialism carried out by its Iranian subservient lackeys. Since the very outset of the revolution, the cutting edge of the onslaughts by U.S. imperialism and internal reaction has been aimed at the Iranian Tudeh Party -- a party which for 40 years has raised the banner of the anti-imperialist struggle and which following the establishment of the Islamic Government has continued this struggle and has exposed imperialist plots one after the other.

During the 4 years since the Iranian Revolution's victory, the Iranian Tudeh Party has shown the Islamic Government, which even now is only chanting slogans, clear ways for our homeland's economic, industrial, social, and cultural revival and progress and has spared no sacrifice and effort for the revolution's expansion and perpetuation.

In contrast, a certain group in the Islamic leadership, which outwardly has proclaimed itself to be the harbinger of anti-imperialist struggles, for the past 2 years has embarked on assaulting this party, has occupied its offices, and has banned party publications and arrested the employees of these publications. The arrest of the Iranian Tudeh Party leaders has taken place amid conditions in which the counterrevolution has gained certain positions at various levels and dimensions of government and revolutionary institutions and organs and is attempting to overthrow the Islamic Republic of Iran. The cowardly and entirely false accusations with which the leaders of the Iranian Tudeh party are being charged are in accordance with the same trite and shameful prescriptions that have been prescribed so far by the regime of the annihilated shah, SAVAK, and the U.S. imperialists to every anti-imperialist and independence-seeking act or movement by our nation.

More astonishing than this is that the Islamic Government's responsible authorities, who have found no justified and legal ground with which to charge leaders of the Iranian Tudeh Party, have now gone after the SAVAK dossiers and want to prepare the prosecutor general's bill of indictment on the basis of the contents of these same dossiers. Naturally, such a measure is not only scandalous and shameful, it is an indication of the impotence and helplessness of some of the authorities and of the dossier compilers and planners of this futile plot against Iran's patriots.

Indeed, why are the dossier compilers striving so much to discredit the Islamic Government in public opinion? And why should our Islamic Republic have such a stigma of shame on its forehead? For what reason and for whom?

The Iranian nation protests such self-centrisms with resolute determination and firmly demands that the Islamic Government's responsible officials release as soon as possible and without preconditions the leaders and other members of the Iranian Tudeh Party, and that they desist from creating obstacles to the activities of this party -- which enjoys a worthy prestige and respect, not only in our homeland but throughout the entire world -- and of all revolutionary committed forces.

Asks Workers To 'Rise in Support'

TA052058 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Sincere Supporters of Workers in Islamic Republic's Prison"]

[Text] Dear compatriots, dear workers: About 2 months have passed since the arrest of the leaders and members of a party which, according to the testimony of our homeland's contemporary history, since its inception and until today, has never put down the banner of defending the rights of our homeland's workers, farmers, and toilers. Despite the explicit wording of the Constitution and the demand of the true forces of the revolution and the million-strong masses of our homeland, so far there is still no sign that these selfless and struggling children of Iran will be released.

The rightists, the superficials, and the American hojjatis entrenched in the Islamic Government -- these staunch defenders of the system of capitalism and serfdom and these sworn foes of Iranian workers and toilers -- are seeking to take vengeance on the leaders and members of a party that supports the workers. Because of their principled and consistent defense of the interests of Iranian workers and toilers, because of their struggle against tyranny and despotism as a means for exploiting the toilers, and because of relentless struggle against international imperialism headed by world-devouring America, the foe of independence, freedom, and happiness of progressive mankind and the world's toilers, members of the Iranian Tudeh Party were incarcerated for more than 100 generations. [as heard] The leadership of this party alone was the quest of the jailers of the sinister Pahlavi dynasty for more than 3 generations.

Some of the Iranian Tudeh Party leaders, who right now are considered prisoners of the Islamic Government, had each spent 25 years in prison until 4 years ago when the gates of the Middle Age dungeons of the bloodsucking regime of the accursed Mohammad Reza were opened by Iranian workers and toilers. The leaders were fellow prisoners with many of the current high-ranking government figures and officials of the Islamic Republic and the combatant clergy. In view of the iron will of the Tudeh, their faith and sincerity, and their all-out assistance to the struggling Muslims in the dungeons of the accursed Mohammad Reza, the late Ayatollah Taleqani justly used to call them the true children of the Iranian nation and always looked upon them with respect.

It suffices for our homeland's workers and toilers to take into consideration only the struggles of the recent 4 years by the Iranian Tudeh Party, the true party of the working class. The Iranian Tudeh Party, immediately following the revolution, by raising the just demands of workers, farmers, and other Iranian toilers, demanded fundamental changes in the work and living conditions of the workers. By principled defense of the imam's popular line, it termed the continuation of exploitation of man by man and the maintenance of the system of exploitation and serfdom as a stain of shame on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Despite the intimidation and pressure of the American hojjatis, the railroading liberals, the rightists, and the superficials, the Iranian Tudeh Party engaged in exposing all antilabor regulations, bills, and measures and played an outstanding role in informing the people and all Iranian workers and toilers of the situation. The only party which, despite the wild and comprehensive onslaught by the liberals, the American hojjatis, the rightists, the superficials, and other penetrating elements of the great satan in the Islamic Government and in the Islamic Republic Party, defended and continues to defend the rights of Iranian workers and toilers with sincere and utmost consistency is the Iranian Tudeh party. Recall the sweet promises that the American hojjatis entrenched in the Islamic Government served up to the workers and toilers. Without doubt, you will see that not only have they not fulfilled even a single one of their promises, but even after 4 years since the revolution, in certain instances, they today are terrified of raising many of their promises as well.

Consider the labor law of [Labor and Social Affairs Minister] Tavakkoli and his partners. This is the outcome of the promises that they had given you, the workers, or as the imam has said, the pillars of the revolution. According to the acknowledgement of senior and committed government figures and officials of the Islamic Republic, this law is a disgrace to the revolution. The great role of the Iranian Tudeh Party in exposing Tavakkoli and his partners, these supporters of the system of capitalism and serfdom, and in neutralizing many of their antilabor goals is recorded in history. In fact, the leaders and members of this party are being punished for sincere and all-out defense of the revolution's and the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line and the existence of the Islamic Republic's system and for principled defense of the legal and just rights of millions of Iranian workers, farmers, and toilers. It is the only party which, with the majority feda'i costrugglers, and by relying on the million-strong masses, has deprived the great satan and its liberal, hojjati, superficial, and untra-rightist elements from sleep.

Dear compatriots, workers, and toilers, in the name of defending the revolution and the existence of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system, one must rise in support of the only party that is the real defender of the legitimate and just demands of the workers and must request committed government figures of the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement the Constitution's principles and release unconditionally the true revolutionary strugglers and loyal supporters of the Islamic Republic.

VOICE OF IRAN CITES REPUBLIC DAY COUP RUMOR

GF020812 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 2 Apr 83

[Text] A correspondent for the Voice of Iran has reported that late Thursday night and early Friday morning rumors suddenly spread throughout Iran that a coup d'etat was imminent. The Voice of Iran correspondent said that even though the rumor appeared untrue on 1 April, it did cause unease in various organizations of the Islamic Republic.

A communique was issued early Friday morning by the revolution guards committee to its members, detailing an urgent plan of action. Also early Friday morning, radio and television stations, Jamaran, military headquarters, the (?old) Asadabad unit, and the dispatch building located on Naser-Khosro Street came under the watchful scrutiny of revolution guards units. In the early morning hours, two helicopters were readied for a flight near the (Kashanak) Mountains. Also traffic was strictly controlled beginning at the Niavaran crossroad and beginning at [street name indistinct] to Jamaran.

A source told our correspondent that when a telephone conversation between Musavi and Khomeyni was severed, the rumor was received with greater credence in Jamaran. Also giving credence to the rumor was the fact that most of the Cabinet officials were on trips outside of Tehran. People living near Jamaran witnessed the movement of armed officials and revolution guards throughout Thursday night.